

GRIST FROM THE MILL FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS
COLVIN RUN MILL HISTORIC SITE
July 2004

Volunteer Dinner – Many Thanks

A special thanks to the Great Falls restaurants who contributed to an enjoyable volunteer dinner. **Deli Italiano** supplied the ziti, **L'Auberge Chez Francois** did the sinfully delicious dessert, **Mandarin Chinese Restaurant** furnished the fried rice and **The Tavern at Great Falls** tossed the Caesar Salad.

Many thanks also to the **Colvin Run Tavern**, **Dante's Ristorante** and **The Serbian Crown** who donated generous gift certificates for our Volunteer of the Year and Distinguished Volunteer. It is gratifying to have the support of the local business community. Please remember their generosity and support them with your business when you can.



Outstanding Volunteers

This year we added two names to the **Outstanding Volunteers** plaque. Frank Boucher is our *Distinguished Volunteer*. Barbara Raymond is our *Volunteer of the Year*.

Distinguished Volunteer
Frank Boucher

Frank Boucher came to us 10 years ago from Connecticut with 25 years of financial management and public interaction skills as well as a love of history. He and his wife, Carol, quickly involved themselves in the historic interpretation community – he at Colvin Run Mill Historic Site, and she at Sully Historic Site. Though he hasn't made us a ton of money yet, Frank has used his other skills to good advantage. One family was so impressed that they took time to send a letter – truly a high compliment in this busy age.

Just wanted to let you know how much my wife and I enjoyed the program at Colvin Run Mill. We have been to many various sites – and find yours to be one of the finest. Frank Boucher, who did the interpretation, gave a grand presentation. He knows his subject and presents it very well. As I said, we have been to many sites. Sometimes it seems that the staff is less than what they should be. Not so with yours!

Frank works for NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Assn.) and travels all over the United States working with member groups in their community. But he faithfully saves a weekend day to volunteer at the mill and impress visitors with his knowledge and skill.

Volunteer of the Year
Barbara Raymond

Barbara Raymond became a volunteer at Colvin Run Mill in 1999, eager to make a contribution to the community through gardening. Her job as a Highway Design Engineer at the Federal Highway Administration allows her to work 9-hour days, giving her every other Friday free to volunteer at Colvin Run Mill. Barbara has been integral to the planning, development and maintenance of the site gardens, always looking to use the materials we have in the most efficient and attractive way. Problem was that during the winter months she couldn't do much in the gardens except look through seed catalogs and help plan future projects.

Barbara looked at ways to be involved with our winter programs. She liked wrapping presents and was soon immersed in wrapping paper and toilet paper tubes as she prepared for our Children's Holiday Shopping Program. She and Muriel Levin were soon our volunteers in charge of the wrapping area. When Jennifer began holding teas for young ladies, Barbara became an official pourer and server. When Mary needed help with the ice cream programs, she came, she cranked and she shared the fun of home-made ice cream. Always looking for ways to become more involved, Barbara has talked with the Friends of Colvin Run Mill and is looking forward to working with them to increase community awareness.



Special Thanks

A special thanks to the following volunteers who have exceeded the annual 72 hours that we request.

100 hours	Martha Barroso, Mark Bates, Phil Bowling, Lee Boyd, Genie Davis? , Mary Dettra? , Fran Di Lorenzo, Jim Hogan, Muriel Levin, Bob Lundegard, Mike Murphy, Catherine Pitcaithley, Andy Procko
200 hours	Harriet Hunt, Muriel Levin, Mike Moran, Kitty O'Hara
300 hours	Joe Pruden, Sam Swartz
500 hours	Nick Yannarell
600 hours	Marjorie Lundegard

New Faces

Raaj Mehta is a 10th grader who lives in Great Falls. He has volunteered with children, working for Special Olympics and helping with programs at Wolftrap Farm Park. Raaj is looking forward to an interesting and exciting summer, learning to interpret the mill and helping with summer programs.



SMA Summer Conference, Aug 1-2

The Small Museum Association and the Greater Baltimore History Alliance are co-hosting a summer conference in – where else – beautiful downtown Baltimore. On Sunday, August 1 the pre-conference activities include a guided walking tour or a

VIP Museum Pass so you can create your own walking tour. On Monday, August 2 there will be workshops on enhancing your interpretation and increasing site relevance in the community. The conference ends with a behind-the-scenes tour of several area museums.

The conference sessions are \$35 for members, \$45 for non-members and include continental breakfast and lunch. The pre-conference activities are \$5 members, \$10 non-members for the walking tour or \$10 members, \$15 non-members for the VIP pass. See Mary Allen or Ann Korzeniewski for more information.



From the Miller's Corner

Mason Maddox was away from the mill for several Sundays in June, but he wanted Sunday visitors to see the mill operating, so he accelerated the training of his trusty dusty, Kevin Gawthrop. Kevin who has worked with Mason for the past year and “has a good ear” according to Mason. By June 6, Kevin was declared capable of grinding solo – with a cell phone as a safety net. Kevin with the help of Kyle Sullivan and Fred Pretty successfully fired up the stones three

Sundays in June. Congratulations to Kevin for advancing his apprenticeship and to Fred and Kyle, his supporting dusties.

To begin repairing the old blue grain cleaner, Mason needed to move it from the attic to his 2nd floor shop, and to move the grain cleaner being replaced from the 1st floor to the 2nd floor of the mill. Thank heavens for the trap doors! Placing the double pulley from the barn above the trap door in the attic, Mason and Pat McGuire were able to accomplish both tasks quickly and the grain cleaners are now in the mill shop.

Arti-facts from Dawn What's Your Guess?



“What’s that thing?” “What do you do with this?” Those are some of the questions I hear from visitors, young and old, in the general store as they look at our artifacts hanging from the ceiling and on the upper shelves. Now I am turning the table and asking the visitors to identify the use of several items from the store that I have placed in the exhibit case. You will quickly guess the name and use of some of the items but others may stump you and the visitors.

Included in the exhibit are a mortar, a homemade lid for a saucepan, pineapple eye snippers, the Improved Edgar Nutmeg Grater and a waving iron to make your hair beautiful. The answers are provided in a red folder next to the exhibit case just in case our visitors cannot identify all the items.

First Aid Kits



Quick! Get a band aid – a child is distressed over her scraped knee. Quick! Get a bee-sting pad – someone got zapped by a bee. Do you know where to lay your hands on these simple first-aid supplies. Dawn monitors our first-aid boxes and wants everyone to know about them. There is a first-aid box in the general store on the shelf behind the mail-box window and one in the volunteer room on a shelf of the metal cabinet behind the door. There are two first-aid boxes in the mill, one in the electric closet in the basement and one on the second floor in Mason’s shop.

Included in the first-aid boxes are bee-sting pads, antiseptic wipes, band aids, eye wash, gauze, tweezers and scissors. Nearby are cold packs, latex gloves and injury report forms. If someone needs one of these items, give him/her the item and allow him/her to apply, rather than doing it yourself. Be sure to notify a staff person. If the first-aid kit is insufficient for the emergency, then it is time to call 911. The Fire Department has trained medics that respond within minutes.



Frying Pan Park Seeks Flea Market Vendors

Clean out the dusty corners of your attic and garage and turn those used goods into cash! A community Flea Market will be held on Saturday, July 31 from 9am – 1pm at Frying Pan Park in Herndon. The vendor fee is only \$30 for a 12’ x 24’ space and proceeds benefit the Park Authority’s Volunteer Program and the Friends of

Huntley Meadows Park. Call 703-324-8750 for a registration form. Spaces sold out in previous years for this popular event, so early registration is recommended. There is no charge for shoppers.



On the Road with Bob and Marge

Bob and Marge came away from the field trip to Maryland and Pennsylvania mills with lots of information and some good pictures to add to our scrapbook. When you read about the mills, we can furnish directions (perhaps you want to ask Ken Asher or Iris Schwartz instead of Mary Allen for directions).

CRM Volunteer Mill Tour on May 22, 2004

On Saturday May 22, 2004 the following volunteers and staff visited two mills in York County, Pa and one mill in Harford Co., Maryland: Tina and Nick Yannarell, Ken Asher, Iris Schwartz, Bob and Marge Lundegard, Mary Allen, Mason Maddox, Jeanne Smith and her daughter Kim Brunetz.

The first mill on the tour was the Eden Mill that is located in Harford County, Md . This mill is tucked away in a rather remote corner of the County. This mill is located in a county park ten miles north of BelAir. In the 1700's the Susquehanna Indians were living in this area along Deer Creek. There were about 7000 Indians living here at this time. By 1763 few Indians remained here as the white settlers had either murdered them or chased them further west.



Clyde Stansbury owned the mill and 138 acres of land along Deer Creek in 1789. Stansbury was a miller and a mason by trade. He had fourteen children. On the site, besides the mill, there were slave quarters and outhouses. Clyde and family are buried in the cemetery that is behind the miller's house. This house, at the present time, is not part of the museum property. From 1800 to 1917 corn was ground at the gristmill. From 1918 to 1928 the mill became a power plant. The two generators were last used in 1972. Animal feed was produced at the mill from 1928 to 1964. In 1965 Harford County Park purchased the mill. In 1992 a nature center was added.

The mill used two turbines in 1917. The mill has a gambrel roof and is a three story frame structure. There is a sack hoist with a cupola. This is an Oliver Evans designed mill complete with grain elevators. On the first level were three roller milling machines, two runs of stones and also a chop mill.

On the second level of the mill there are bolters — one for buckwheat and one for wheat flour. There is also a seed cleaning machine, a corn sheller, a chop mill and a plane sifter for the flour that was produced by the roller milling machines. The third level of the mill was used to store grain and house the belts and pulleys that were used to operate the mill.

In 1905 Frank Wolfe was the owner of the gristmill and a sawmill that was steam powered. A spark ignited and destroyed the mill buildings that were later rebuilt. In 1917 the Fawn Grove Light and Power plant bought the mill to generate electricity. In 1927 the plant was sold to James T. Smith who used a hammer mill to produce feed. Steel rollers were used to produce flour. The mill ceased operations in 1964 when the mill was sold to settle the estate. This is when the county acquired the property. Since this was such a wonderful spot we decided to eat our bag lunches in the newly completed pavilion.

Then onto our next stop. Since many of the road signs were missing finding the mill was difficult. In fact, as were studying the map to decide where to go, a kind lady stopped and offered to take us to the mill. The Wallace-Cross mill is located on Cross Mill road, near the village of Cross Roads. The mill is on 1.6 acres of land along the Rambo Run Stream. This is a three and a half storied frame structured, with a gable roof. The mill has been painted a bright red and has a Victorian roof trim. The mill sets on a sandstone foundation.

The mill was probably built by Alexander Wallace in the 1820's. He ground wheat, barley, and oats for the farmers in the area. When Alexander died, the mill was operated by two of his daughters, Mary and Eleanor, who paid the family \$2500 for the mill. In 1870 Mary lost her arm in accident at the mill. However, she continued working until 1895 when her sister, Jane Ann Cross, bought the mill. J. Nelson Cross, son of Jane Ann, purchased the mill. He installed a Fitz waterwheel. The initials of JNC can be seen on the desk in the miller's office. Harry, son of J. N., operated the mill until 1980's.

In 1979 Harry donated the mill to York County with a life tenancy on the property. However, in 1987, he became seriously ill and died. A relative sold the mill and land to cover the medical bills that Harry had accumulated. There was a serious court battle between the county and the relatives. The court gave the property to the county with a stipulation that the mill had to be restored by July 1, 1999.

In 1972 Agnes washed out the dam. A steam engine was used to supplement the water power from 1927 to 1935. A tractor was used from 1935 to 1987 when the mill finally ceased operating. In 1999 electrical power replaced the water power.



The original Fitz water wheel has been restored and re-installed in the mill. The mill had two runs of French buhrstones that were used to grind corn and buckwheat. The mill has been restored to the 1950's era when Harry Cross ran the mill twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

The mill no longer produces cornmeal or buckwheat flour but the mill can demonstrate the milling process. This is a beautiful mill to visit.

Our last stop was the Muddy Creek Mill that was not open due to flooding by a recent storm. We carefully followed the directions to this mill but somewhere we missed a turn and again another nice person said—follow me.



Muddy Creek mill, built on Muddy Creek around 1750, was originally called the Nicholson Mill. This mill was famous for making the very best buckwheat flour in the area.

Alexander M. Grove bought the property in 1878 and built the general store that still stands today.

The mill, a three-storied frame structure, appears to have been built in three sections. Peering through the windows, one could see one run of stones and various mill accessories. Water damage to the exterior of the mill was evident. Whether structural damage was

done has yet to be determined. The mill has a good roof and has been recently painted. The old mill race

has been cleaned of muck, rocks, bottles and all other debris. The interior of the mill is undergoing repairs. The basement floor is in need of repairs.

In 1996, the mill and thirty-one acres of land, now called Muddy Creek Forks village, was acquired by the Maryland and Pennsylvania Railroad Preservation Society. The store has been restored as a museum. This is a beautiful site and well worth the trip.